

Ministerial Council on Energy

Standing Committee of Officials Bulletin No. 186

Release of study into costs and benefits of smart metering in off-grid and remote areas

The Ministerial Council on Energy's (MCE) Standing Committee of Officials (SCO) today released the final report on the *Costs and Benefits of Smart Metering in Off-Grid and Remote Areas*. The report has been revised to include submissions received during public consultation. This report complements the national smart meter cost-benefit analysis completed in 2008, which dealt solely with on-grid electricity applications, in the National Electricity Market, South West Interconnected System in Western Australia and the Darwin-Katherine network in the Northern Territory, by extending analysis to off-grid areas not considered in the national cost-benefit analysis.

The off-grid study provides eight case studies considered to be broadly representative of off-grid communities in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. The case studies are intended to be transferable between off-grid communities across Australia with similar characteristics, taking into account jurisdictional sensitivities; to provide a basis for comparisons between on- and off-grid costs and benefits; and to highlight the costs and benefits of smart meters in different types of off-grid communities. They will provide information for the relevant jurisdictional Ministers and businesses to make future decisions with regard to smart meters in these areas.

The report has not been endorsed by and does not represent a policy position of MCE, participating jurisdictions, SCO or any jurisdictional supporting officers.

MCE Standing Committee of Officials
29 November 2010

If you did not receive this bulletin by e-mail but would like to be on the mailing list, send your details to: MCETMarketReform@ret.gov.au.